

*Approved by Foreign Missions
Section, Oct. 19, 1950*
POLICY REGARDING SCHOOLS IN KOREA

After careful consideration of the situation confronting our schools in Korea, the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States presents to its Korea Mission the following statement of policy to be followed in the problems now affecting our educational work:

1. We are grateful for the years during which we have been permitted to have a part in providing educational opportunities for the Korean people.

2. We desire through the Mission to express to the government our sincere appreciation of the freedom and protection that have been accorded us in our educational work in the past.

3. Even now we would desire nothing more than that we might continue our educational work under the same conditions that have obtained heretofore. We have no desire to discontinue our educational activities, being actuated now by the same purpose to be of help that was our motive in establishing our schools at the outset.

4. Nevertheless, in view of recent developments that seem to render impossible the continuation of our educational work without compromise of Christian principle we hereby reluctantly instruct our Korea Mission to take appropriate steps for the closing of our schools in due process.

5. We have pondered deeply the consequences of this action, and it is with the sorest regret that we feel constrained to adopt this course, knowing that it involves the loss of educational opportunities for large numbers of families and that it will bring distress to our teachers and missionaries who have given life and devotion to this work throughout the years.

6. In taking this step it is not our purpose to dispute the demands that the authorities have made upon our schools, or to argue the matter one way or the other, but merely to announce our desire under the circumstances to withdraw from the field of secular education in an orderly manner.

7. As the first natural step in the liquidation of the educational work, the Mission is enjoined not to receive new pupils for the entering class of the new semester in April. New students may be admitted to the continuing classes until the process of closing is complete. **

8. It is our earnest desire to provide for the graduation of students now in attendance, and the schools are authorised to continue classes until this can be accomplished, provided nothing is required in the meantime that would compromise the Christian attitude and position for which our schools have consistently stood. In case of such requirement, however, it is hereby ordered that the schools should close without further delay and the permits surrendered to the government. If there should be local or internal circumstances in any particular school rendering even its temporary continuation inadvisable, the Mission is authorised in its discretion to close such school at once without waiting to complete the process of graduating the students in attendance.

9. It is ordered that during the period of liquidation the schools shall continue as heretofore to promote good citizenship, to foster a deep love of country, to teach respect for law and authority, and to inculcate the highest principles of loyalty and patriotism.

10. It is ordered that the entire process of closing our schools should be carried out as quietly as possible in such a way as to attract a minimum of public notice and so as to avoid as far as possible any problems or embarrassments to the authorities.

11. Regarding the disposal of school properties in this emergency, we cannot approve their transfer for school purpose either by gift, loan, rental or sale to any group or organization that would be unable to maintain the Christian principles upon which our schools have stood. We could not by such a transfer escape the moral responsibility laid upon us as stewards of these properties to use them ourselves, or consent to their use by others, only in accordance with what we believe to be the definite convictions of the constituency we represent through whose contributions these properties have been provided and maintained. As there are essential reasons of conscience for the closing of the schools, we cannot see our way clear to transfer the property given for distinctly Christian education to other agencies, however well-intentioned, in order that they may conduct schools under the same limitations.

12. The final disposal of properties must be approved by the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions in accordance with the terms of the Manual, paragraphs 138-146.

13. While our decision to desist from secular education in Korea is definite and resolute as long as our schools are subject to present requirements, we cannot but express the hope that the authorities may yet recognize the sincerity of our purpose to help and the reluctance with which we have taken this step, and provide some way by which loyal friends of Japan may be enabled to fulfill their mission of service without compromise of Christian principle.

(Signed) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN
MISSION
C. Darby Fulton, Secretary.

** In applying this provision it is understood that primary schools and schools of middle school grade are to be considered as separate units.